Demands of Association

3666. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry has urged Government to allow the private sector to import and export canalised goods alongwith Government sponsored trading organisations;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government propose to consider the demands of the ASSOCHAM; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. All the suggestions received from the various quarters for amendment to Export and Import Policy, 1992-97 were kept in view while carring out a review of the Export and Import Policy and the changes as considered necessary were notified on 30th June, 1992 vide Ministry of Commerce, Notification No. 22(N-3)/92-97 and Public Notice No. 23-ITC(PN)/92-97, both dated 30th June, 1992, copies of which are available in the Parliament Library.

Export of Rice

3667. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1923 given in the Rajya Sabha on 28th July, 1992 and state:

(a) what is the quantity of rice exported in 1991-92 and in the financial year 1992-93 so far;

(b) the names of the countries to which rice was exported from India; and

(c) the total amount of foreign exchange in US dollars during this period?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (c) During 1991-92, 7,11,416 Tons of rice valued at 306.26 million US Dollars were exported, while 1,63,009 Tons of rice valued at 84.6 million US Dollars have been exported in the quarter April to June, 1992. Saudi Arabia, UAE, U.K., Jordan, USA, Baharian, Kuwait, Oman, Singapore, Iran, Malaysia etc., were the major countries to which the rice was exported.

Joint ventures with Israel

3668. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE:

SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation led by Mr. David Kitrak, Director General, Israel Export Institute visited New Delhi recently to identify areas of joint ventures;

(b) if so, the details of the areas of joint ventures identified as a result of the talks with them; and

(c) whether any Memorandum of Undertakings was signed by them with the Confederation of Indian Industries, if so, the details thereof?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) An Israeli business delegation led by Mr. David Litvak Director General of Israel Export Institute had visited India on 30th and 31st March, 1992 and had discussions with the members of the confederation of Indian Industries and the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry. As reported by these Industry Associations, both sides had exploratory discussions on areas of cooperation in the fields of trade and industry including joint ventures.

(b) During the discussions, scope for joint ventures was discussed in general terms and no specific project had been identified.

(c) The Confederation of Indian Industries signed a Memorandum of understanding with the Israel Export Institute providing inter-alia for exchange of information about products and industrial processes, economic and commercial matters and arranging seminars, courses and confederences and to undertake studies for developing specific programmes.

Free port at Kanyakumari

3669. SHRI S. AUSTIN: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken steps for setting up a free port at Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu as proposed by the Advisory Committee of Government of India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the action proposed to be taken in the matter?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The Free Port Committee has not recommended the location of a Free Port at Kanyakumari, Tamil Nadu.

(b) Does not arise.

Tobacco Board activities

3670. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to extend Tobacco Board activities to non F.C.V. Tobacco;

(b) if so, at what stage of considera tion is the same;

(c) what are the reasons for the delay in its implementation;

(d) what is the target rate to execute the same; and

(e) what steps have been taken to speed up the process?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) to (e) A Bill was introduced in the Lok Sabha on 20th August, 1990 by which the provisions of the Tobacco Board Act for regulating production and marketing of virginia tobacco were intended to be made applicable to non-virginia tobacco in a phased manner. Howeve, because of the dissolution of Lok Sabha on 13th March, 1991, the Bill lapsed. The proposal now requires further evaluation in view o the budgetary support required.

Recommendations of extreme focus set up by Board of Trade

3671. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL:
SHRI SHANTI TYAGI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Unstarred Question 1705 given in the Rajya Sabha on 12th May, 1992 and state:

(a) whether Government have examined the recommendations of the extreme focus group set up by the Board of Trades (BOT) in the Ministry of Commerce with a view to revising the established norms and procedures;

(b) whether it is a fact that the group has suggested wide ranging changes in financing foreign exchange and insurance procedure for the export of a cluster of 34 products as reported in the Indian Express dated the 22nd July, 1992 under its column "Business Express".

(c) if so, what are the details thereof including name of agency going to monitor such exports besides other specific re-commendations of the Group; and

(d) what are the likely recommendations of extreme focus group going to be accepted by Government for early implementation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The recommendations are still under examination.

(b) Yes, Sir.